

Greenwich Nursing & Healthcare Registry, Inc.

Est. 1930

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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR COMMITTEE

REGARDING HB-5313

AN ACT CONCERNING HOMEMAKER SERVICES AND HOMEMAKER COMPANION SERVICES AGENCIES.

March 11, 2014

Good afternoon Senator Holder-Winfield, Representative Tercyak and the other committee members. We are Crystal Ramsey and Kathy Schluensen, managing directors and co-owners of the Greenwich Nursing and Health Care Registry. We are both registered nurses. The Registry was founded in 1930 by the alumnae association of Greenwich Hospital School of Nursing. The purpose was to offer work opportunities to Nurses and fill a need for private duty nursing in the community.

We are in opposition to HB-5313 which would effectively put the Registry business model out of business. Preserving the Registry model as a choice for both caregivers and patients is in the interest of the Community.

Our Registry refers registered nurses, licensed practical nurses and certified nursing assistants to private patients. We service patients from pediatrics to geriatrics, terminally ill in acute care hospitals, rehabilitation, and long term care facilities and private homes.

Our Registry also provides one-on-one staffing assistance in our local hospital on an "as needed" basis. This need varies greatly and our services are cost effective and benefits the Community, providing services when needed, eliminating unnecessary over staffing.

Hospice patients regularly use our services in conjunction with the traditional hospice and Visiting Nurse Services. End of life care can require RN's and LPN's for 24/7 care at home. Most patients choose to be at home with family at this time but usually need the professional assistance to handle pain management. Much of this service will be absent without private duty nurses.

Eliminating Registries will result in loss of jobs for nurses and lack of skilled care nurses and caregivers available to patients upon request. The Registry business model has allowed caregivers to pursue and finance higher education. This semester two of our nursing aides have completed their course work for professional nursing. One will take state boards next month for LPN licensure and the other has passed her board for registered nurse. Approximately 10 of our nursing aides have become licensed professionals.

We support common sense regulations to improve our industry and better protect consumers and nurses. Formation of a task force to explore employment issues concerning registries can provide the consumer with real choices, continuity of care and cost effective solutions to the complex problems of healthcare and aging in place. Thank you for your time and consideration. We would be pleased to answer any questions.